

ther, our daily average attendance, in proportion to the whole population, is better than in New York or Connecticut.

I am free to say that quite a large number of our children do not avail themselves of the facilities they have, but the greatest difference between the educational status of our State and those I have named above, and other Northern States, consists in the length of annual school terms. North Carolina has 63 days per annum (just about the same for both races), Massachusetts 172, Connecticut 179, and New York 178. With nearly the same rate of enrollment and average attendance, and, say three times as long terms, the public educational forces in these three States are three times as great as are those of our State, granting that our teachers are as well prepared for their work. We are, indeed, far behind in the educational race, but still our public schools are improving in efficiency and attendance, and our many private schools are giving valuable help, both in the instruction of children who are not included in the public school enrollment, and in providing higher education to those young persons who have passed beyond the public school course.

In estimating our educational facilities, I have taken the average for the State. We must not lose sight of the fact that, while the average school term is 63 days, or 3 months, some counties have only about 2 months, and others have 4 months or more. This results from several causes:

1. *A difference in valuation of property in the different counties.*
2. *Closer collections of school funds by officers of some counties than of others.*
3. *Receipts from license of retail liquor dealers, which are large in some counties and small or nothing in others.*
4. *Special levies for schools by some County Commissioners and none by others.*